

March 10, 1977

talking about not \$12,600,000 as we replaced the other with, but we're talking about some \$80 million. I wanted to do away with this archaic, bad system of taxing property. There is no way under the sun, in our community, that we can set valuations, or can we justify mill levies between subdivisions of government. But to come in and say that we're going to take this off, I certainly will support taking it off at what they said four years ago, \$27 million. Today, by our own legislation and by the legislation of the senators of this body, we have increased the valuation of farm property by state law. We haven't done it by the assessor or by the State Tax Commissioner, we, who were farm senators at that time, voted it in and we are the ones that stuck ourselves with this. Corporations have a much better way of taxing their personal property than what the farmer does. The farmer, by the senators on the floor of this Legislature four years ago, set what the value of a tractor is, set what the value of a cow is, set what the value of grain is. We are the ones that have done that by state law.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, would you close debate on this.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Maybe we should just put the bill on the floor. It's been debated now as much as most bills that ever go on General File. I just think that the bill deserves a public hearing. It is a different bill than Senator Newell's bill, it is a different approach. It is an approach which deserves to be considered. Senator Keyes points out, and correctly so, that the cost is greater than we anticipated. In 1971 the General Fund appropriation was around \$195 million. This year it is \$471 million. So we recognize that we've been gross in that area also. Senator Lewis points out that the money is not going to be there. Well, as I've pointed out many times, sometimes we look at things in a narrow concept and the concept of just exactly where does the money come from. If it comes from state tax revenues we say we don't have the money. On the other hand we turn right around and we're willing to assess industry, business, agriculture, individuals everytime we've conducted business with a subdivision of government. That is a tax also. So I would hope that you would vote to introduce the bill. Wherever the Revenue Committee decides to send it is fine with me. We'll hear the bill. I'm concerned. I enjoy hearing Senator Keyes express his concern about the cost of those people coming in for the hearing. I don't think that is any problem. Anyone who doesn't want to come in will find some other way to express his opinion to the Committee. I think the bill deserves a hearing. The problem is there. The problem is not going to go away. Unless we address the problem and do follow some sort of situation, such as is outlined in this bill, the eventual cost to the State of Nebraska will far exceed that which is proposed in this bill, and we will still have the unequal, unfair, inoperable personal property tax assessment at the county level. I would urge the members of this body to vote to introduce the bill.

PRESIDENT: The question is shall this request be granted. Record your vote. Please vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 32 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to introduce.